

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 10-12 and 14-17 and add claims 18-22 as follows:

1-17. (Cancelled).

18. (New). High-speed shears for transverse cutting of a rolled strip comprising:

an upper blade support formed as a beam bridge having a relatively large diameter and carrying a first blade and having a shaft stub on each of opposite longitudinal sides thereof;

a lower blade drum having a comparatively small diameter and carrying a second blade;

means for permanently rotationally connecting the beam bridge with the lower drum and having two synchronization tooth gears fixedly connected with the beam bridge and the blade drum, respectively, having different pitch circle diameters corresponding roughly to diameters of respective blades, and engaging each other substantially backlash-free, the first

and second blades cooperating with each other in a predetermined cutting position of the beam bridge and the lower blade drum for cutting the rolled strip;

two pinch-roller sets located in front of and behind the beam bridge and the blade drum, respectively, for advancing the rolled strip under longitudinal tensioning through a gap between the beam bridge and the blade drum; and

roller means for supporting the tensioned strip and providing for lifting of the strip before passing of the second lower blade and for lowering the strip before passing of the first upper blade through the blade gap.

19. (New). Shears as set forth in claim 18, wherein the roller means cooperates with one of hydraulic, mechanical, driving and adjusting means an operation of which is synchronized with passing of a respective one of the second lower and first upper blades through the blade gap between the beam bridge and the blade drum.

20. (New). Shears as set forth in claim 18, wherein one of the first and second blade is replaced with a cutting bit and another of the first and second blades is replaced with an anvil.

21. (New). Shears as set forth in claim 18, wherein in order to at least minimize the backlash, the tooth gear associated with the blade drum is divided in two gear portions, and the shear further comprises bolt means for securing the two gear portions in a predetermined angular position with respect to each other.

22. (New). Shears as set forth in claim 18, wherein a number of x-revolutions of one of the beam bridge and the blade drum corresponds to a number y-revolutions of another of the beam bridge and the blade drum so that the beam bridge and the blade drum are brought into the cutting position after different but finite number of the x-revolutions and y-revolutions of the beam bridge and the blade drum.